(d) if so, names of items to be received by India in return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan during his visit to India in July, 1996 had expressed his desire to source 20 to 30 thousand tonnes of wheat and approximately 40,000 tonnes of flour from India. He had proposed that this deal could be done on the basis of swap in return for cotton or some other items from Turkmenistan.

From Indian side State Trading Corporation has been appointed as the nodal agency for the proposed swap deal. Request has been made to the Turkmenistan Authorities to nominate a nodal agency so that relevant details can be negotiated. The response of the Turkmenistan side is awaited.

Centrally sponsored Plan Scheme for Organising Rural- Workers

2108. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the duties and the functions of the Rural Organizers appointed under the Centrally sponsored plan scheme for organising rural workers;

(b) the amount granted to different States, State-wise so far;

(c) whether any amount is contributed by the State Government under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The Question pertains to an erstwhile scheme which was started in August, 1981 and at the end of Vllth Plan was dovetailed to another Plan Scheme viz., Organising the Beneficiaries of the Anti-Poverty Programme administered by the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Areas *and* Employment).

The functions of Honorary Rural Organisers under the said scheme were to educate workers on their rights and duties, stress the value of organisation and to help them organise themselves into cooperatives, trade unions etc.

Details or funds released to the State Governments upto 31.3.1996 are given below:—

Name of State/U.Ts.	Amount (in Rupees)
Tamil Nadu	7,43,609.00
Gujarat	19,62,009.00
Orissa	11,98,301.00
Haryana	15,496.00
Andhra Pradesh	4,35,285.00
Pondicherry	99,354.00
Assam	7,77,368.00
Karnataka	12,47,477.00
Uttar Pradesh	4,46,651.00
Maharashtra	6,12,190.00
Rajasthan	11,63,951.00
Bihar	4,04,150.00
Madhya Pradesh	15,93,995.00
TOTAL:	1,06,99,836.00

The scheme was funded on 100% basis by the Central Government. Each organiser appointed under the scheme was paid an honorarium of Rs. 200/- per month and fixed conveyance allowance of Rs. 50/- per month.

VRS in Export Inspection Agency, Cochin

2109. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VRS has been introduced in Export Inspection Agency, Cochin;

(b) if so, the number of employees accepted VRS;

(c) whether it is a fact that an officer who had accepted VRS has been re-employed by EI A;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and